



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Field Day 2010
CDXA Outdoes Itself
 Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA put on another great Field Day effort from the QTH of Ric, AA4SC. This year we again operated in Class 3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power). Our score of 10,020 points beats our Class 3E winning score from last year—8,876 points.

We had two special visitors this year. Andrew Dys, columnist for the Rock Hill Herald visited us during our work period the Friday before Field Day. The result was a very nice article in the Herald on Saturday morning. And Doug Echols, the Mayor of Rock Hill, SC, visited us on Saturday afternoon while we were in operation.

Here's our QSO count:

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Band	CW QSOs	SSB QSOs
80m	218	46
40m	520	186
20m	603	573
15m	242	317
10m	51	0
6m	2	61
Total	1636	1183

CW QSOs count two points each, phone QSOs one point, so the total of our CW and phone QSO points is 4,455. Our power multiplier is 2 because all our transmitters were under 150 watts. This gives us 8,910 points. We can add 1,110 bonus points for using 100% emergency power, getting media publicity, sending a message to our Section Manager, copying the W1AW Field Day message, originating 10 National Traffic System messages, being visited by an elected official, being visited by a Red Cross representative, having three operators under 18 years old, submitting our scores via the Web, and conducting an educational activity.

The three stations were each in a separate room in Ric's house. One station was dedicated to CW and used an ICOM IC-756ProII with Ric's station antennas augmented with a dipole for 80 meters. The

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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second station operated SSB with a Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark-V and used an A-3 and an 80/40 dipole for antennas. The third station used an ICOM IC-756ProIII to operate both CW and SSB on forty meters with a vertical loop antenna. All three stations used N1MM logging software and the computers were connected in a wireless network.

Our CW operators were Ric (AA4SC), Dennis (K2SX), Haney (K2XN), Cliff (W3ZL), and Bob (WA2EMF).

Phone operators were Ric (AA4SC), Paul (AD4IE), Ken (K4DXA), Jim (K4SQR), John (K8YC), Joe (K14TZ), Steve (KZ2I), Gary (W2ZV), Dick (W3OA), Pete (WA2ODO), Ken (WA4OBO), and Chris (WW4CP).

Our three under 18 operators were Sarah-Margaret Porter, Cody Peek, and CDXA member Cameron Hasson, (KJ4EDF).

Now for some scenes from the Field Day weekend:

Right upper: **How many Hams does it take to put a beam on a tower? Here we were putting a Cushcraft A3 on W2ZV's portable tower. Left to right are WA2EMF, WW4CP, W3OA, AD4IE, K8YC, and AA4SC. Not shown but also helping were K14TZ on the end of one of the guy wires and W2ZV taking the picture.**

Right center: **How do you get Hams to wear clean shirts at Field Day? Here's the group that kicked off the operations at 2 pm Saturday. Left to right are K14TZ, AA4SC, WA2EMF, K2SX, KZ2I, and W2ZV.**



Here's WA2EMF operating CW on the 40 meter station.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$20 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.



WA4OBO takes his turn on the phone station.



Paul Ponak, AD4IE, operates the phone station during the grave yard shift.



AA4SC explains to Mayor Echols what K2SX is doing on the CW station. Below: WW4CP on the left and K4DXA on the right provide some coaching to KJ4EDF.



W3ZL doesn't look too pleased with conditions on 40 meters Sunday morning. Below: K8YC cranks out some phone QSO's early Sunday morning.



T-Shirt Mania?

It started simply enough. Every once in a while Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, or Gary Dixon, K4MQG, would come to a CDXA luncheon wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a large CDXA logo on the chest. Also, Joe has been seen on multiple DXpeditions wearing his T-shirt. There were always some who would ask, “How do I get one of those?”

When asked where Gary got his shirt, he said he had them made a number of years ago when someone was going on a DXpedition. To find out if there was really any interest, K8YC went out on a limb and ordered 24 assorted sizes to see if they could be sold. All but three were sold within a week. With some confidence, a flyer was produced soliciting orders from the membership. Recently, John received and distributed the last of 73 shirts ordered by CDXA members.

To keep things simple, a price of \$10 was set for a shirt regardless of size or color. As part of the offering, it was disclosed that any proceeds over and above costs would be put in the club treasury to support DXpedition activities. With the sale of the last shirt, \$178 was deposited in the CDXA treasury to comply with the stated intentions.

Joe Blackwell has always said that a CDXA shirt should be worn by a member while on a DXpedition. With the E4X DXpedition being imminent, shirts were donated to CDXA member Fabrizio “Brix” Vedovelli and Antonio Gonzalez—co-leaders of the E4X DXpedition team. The CDXA shirt was evident on the DXpedition as shown below!



Fabrizio (IN3ZNR) and Antonio (EA5RM) display their CDXA shirts in front of the Telecommunications Ministry in Bethlehem, Palestine.

Ten Year Index for The Pileup

Since 2000, the *Pileup* has been prepared using Adobe's Acrobat product, producing the familiar Portable Data File (PDF) format.

Your editor has long held the vision of preparing a full index of all issues of the *Pileup* for the decade of 2000-2009. This need was periodically emphasized when a member would call asking your editor for the issue that contained an article that needed to be revisited. A first guess would get “close”, but finding the actual article sometimes meant leafing through a year's issues to locate the specific article. Acrobat has a convenient tool to index every significant word in a collection of PDF documents, and that tool has been used to create just such an index.

If you want to revisit a specific topic in the *Pileup* since 2000, your editor now has an easy way to find anything. If you'd like your very own CD to be able to search all ten years of the CDXA newsletter, write the editor, K8YC, and let him know. Depending on the demand for the index, there may be a charge of \$4 to \$5 to defray the expense of CD, jewel case, and mailing costs. The CD will contain all ten years of the *Pileup* from 2000 to 2009 and an index file that you can search using Acrobat Reader.

AR-Cluster Changes

Pervasive use of high-speed Internet connections has finally brought about the cessation of packet radio interconnection to the CDXA cluster. Both the K4MD and NA4L cluster locations have no advertised connections using packet radio.

When the first clusters were put up by CDXA, only academic institutions and the government agencies had access to the Internet. In the mid-1990s, growth of public access to the Internet began to take off. Packet radio was quite effective, but it had its drawbacks in contests when the high volume and round-robin distribution of spots would cause the clusters to lag real-time in some cases by as much as an hour or more.

Use of the Internet's telnet communications protocol provides very fast input and output of data to our clusters, and allows many more simultaneous connections with little or no observable latency, even with over 40 connected users. The flexibility of Internet Protocol has also enabled us to interconnect CW Skimmers during contests. It was time to “retire” RF packets in exchange for Internet packets. We're sure you will agree that telnet access surpasses an RF link even if packet radio is “neat” technology.

W4NL Inducted into CQ DX Hall of Fame



(Photo courtesy of David Bower, K4PZT)

Carolina DX Association and East Tennessee DX Association can each claim one of their “favorite sons” as an inductee into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. In May of 2010, Lynn Lamb, W4NL, was honored for his years of participation and service to the DX Community.

Many of you will recognize Lynn as an original member of the “Tennessee 8” who visit us at the Charlotte Hamfest each year. Those of you who have been to the SEDCO Conference will also recognize Lynn as one of the founders of that key event for DXers.

Did you know that Lynn is one fine DXer, too? Those who read the *Pileup* closely will recall from the January 2010 issue that Lynn recently earned DXCC Honor Roll status as a QRP operator to fulfill a quest he began in 2000. Not bad, huh?

Our sincerest congratulations to you, Lynn, from all of your fellow CDXA members.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

(All items in this article were extracted from archived issues of the *Pileup*, available on the CDXA website.)

Ten Years Ago

This was an active period for CDXA paraphernalia development—a new nametag for CDXA was developed with the assistance of the folks at “The Signman” and the folks at Lands End had just put the finishing touches on our embroidered logotype for their clothing. . . . Roger Burt wrote an interesting article about the “Big RTTY Signal” he found in his duties as a Coastguardsman in Puerto Rico. . . . A group from CDXA went up to Young’s Mountain to install a new run of 7/8” Heliac at the 210 foot level on a commercial tower to improve the W4DXA cluster per-

formance. . . . Bob Burton did a lot of footwork to investigate setback requirements in Mecklenburg County before starting erection of a tower at his new QTH. It is good reading for anyone getting ready to build in Mecklenburg today, but be sure to see if the ordinances have been amended in the meantime.

Twenty Years Ago

Building out nodes on the PacketCluster system was the order of the day. New antennas were being installed and new mountaintop towers were being found. . . . The June-July 1990 issue of *The Pileup* carried a tongue-in-cheek article about terrorists taking over the DXCC program using highly sophisticated QRM techniques. It seems a broadband noise source was developed using a combination of Domino’s Pizza and Miller Beer. (Get the picture?) . . . The DX Cops were alive and well in 1990 as parodied in a cartoon of that era.

In Retrospect

By John Scott, K8YC

In 2001 out of the clear blue sky an article on the physics of propagation appeared in my email inbox from Robert Brown, NM7M. I really didn’t know who Robert Brown was or why he sent me the article. Perhaps it was an article I had prepared a few months earlier musing about the grayline. Yet, as a newsletter editor always looking for material, I deemed it worthy of printing. You can see that article (“Sleepless in Seattle”) in the August 2001 issue of the *Pileup*, available in the archives on the CDXA website.

In late May, 2010 I learned that I *should have known* who Robert Brown was when I received a note from ARRL that one Robert Brown had passed away on May 23. I recalled reprinting Mr. Brown’s article in 2001, and the callsign in ARRL’s announcement matched the one for “my” Mr. Brown. You see, Robert Brown, NM7M, was a retired professor of Physics from University of California at Berkeley active in the Space Sciences Lab. After retiring, he became very interested in 80m and 160m propagation. His knowledge of space physics made low band DXing a natural pursuit.

Along came the June and July 2010 issues of CQ magazine and there were articles by Robert Brown (“Over Coffee and Cognac” and “On Forbush Decreases and 160 Meter Propagation”) prepared shortly before his passing. A “google” of NM7M took me to the ARRL website where I learned that Robert Brown published often in QST, QEX, and NCJ. There I found a 62 page tutorial he prepared on HF propagation. I’ll be curling up with the propagation article in the coming days since I’ve tasted of Robert Brown’s lucid explanations of his favorite topics. If only I had known. . . .



2009 DX King Final Results



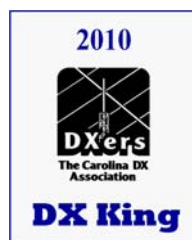
By Dick Williams, W3OA

CQ Magazine has published the results of the 2009 CQ DX Marathon so we can now finalize the results of our CDXA DX King competition for 2009. The top standings are listed below. The calls of the first place winners are engraved on perpetual trophies for their class and all those listed will receive certificates acknowledging their achievement. These will be presented at our Wednesday Lunch on July 21.

First Place, Unlimited Category:	N4ZC with 310 points
Second Place, Unlimited Category:	K4MQG with 309 points
Third Place, Unlimited Category:	AA4SC with 297 points
Fourth Place, Unlimited Category:	K5EK with 297 points
Fifth Place, Unlimited Category:	K4YR with 293 points
First Place, Formula Category:	W3ZL with 226 points
Second Place, Unlimited Category:	W4WNT with 136 points

N4ZC was fourth in the U.S. and thirteenth world-wide in the Unlimited Category. W3ZL was third in the U.S. and fifth world-wide in the Formula Category.

Congratulations to all our winners. There are still almost six months left in the 2010 competition so everyone has ample opportunity to increase their score for 2010.



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a CDXA Jacket from Lands' End or an AES Gift Certificate are on page 10 of the January Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa1001.pdf>).

Item 2: These are the scores I have for the 2010 DX King competition as of June 30:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total	Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	234	40	274	W3ZL	Formula	154	33	187
W4HG	Unlimited	225	40	265	W3NC	Unlimited	147	34	181
W3GQ	Unlimited	223	39	262	K8YC	Unlimited	134	35	179
K4YR	Unlimited	216	40	256	KZ2I	Unlimited	133	33	166
W3OA	Unlimited	206	38	244	W4HLD	Unlimited	120	32	152
W7DO*	Unlimited	201	40	241	K4ESE	Unlimited	119	32	151
N4PQX	Unlimited	189	39	228	K4DXA	Unlimited	107	32	139
W4UFO	Unlimited	162	37	199	W4WNT	Formula	96	24	120
N2TU	Unlimited	157	37	194	N4QVM	Unlimited	77	25	102

* All CW

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

The Back Page

CDXA had a fine outing in **Field Day 2010**, surpassing 2009's score in the same operating class. Read all about it starting on Page 1. (Lots of pictures, too!)

T-shirts and tourists. CDXA T-shirts seen in Bethlehem recently. See Page 4.

Now you can find any article in the past 10 years of the *Pileup* with a **fully annotated index**. See Page 4.

Packet radio access to CDXA clusters is now a technology of the past. See Page 4.

In case you've been out of the country for the past two months, you ought to know that CDXA member Lynn Lamb, W4NL was inducted into the **CQ DX Hall of Fame**. Learn more on Page 5.

Robert Brown, NM7M, (SK) is still with us in many ways. See page 5.

DX Marathon 2009 results were posted in a recent issue of CQ Magazine. CDXA did right well in its efforts. Over 20 CDXA members posted their scores. See page 6.

DX King 2010 is active and well. You still have 6 months to climb the ladder. The top CDXA score is 274 points as of the end of June, and that would finish in the top 20% of last years final scores—and propagation is improving! See page 6.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.